

*Memorial of  
St. Augustine's chapel*

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Memorial  
St. Augustine's  
Chapel,



**Rt. Rev. Manuel Santander y Erutos,**

Born July 4, 1835: Ordained Priest September 24, 1859: Consecrated  
Bishop of Havana October 30, 1887.

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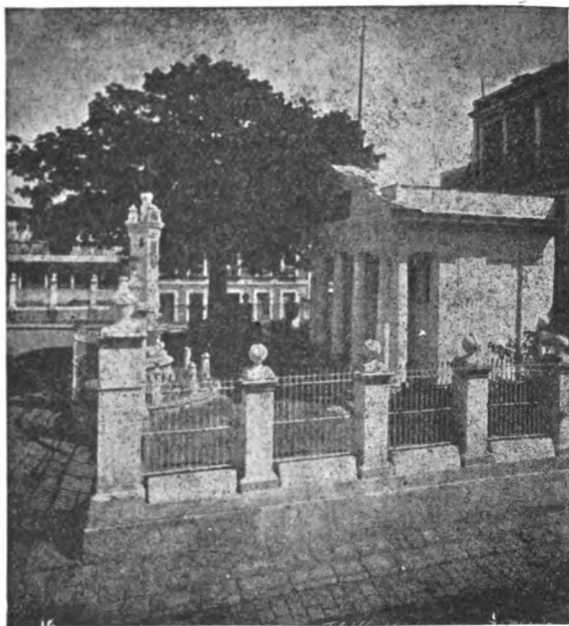
ASTOR, LENOX AND  
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.  
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## Havana

The present City of Havana was founded in the year 1519. Its first settlers comprised the inhabitants of the town of *San Cristobal de la Habana*, established four years previously on the southern coast of Cuba by the renowned explorer Velazquez.

This change of site was undertaken in order to provide a more healthful location for the Europeans. The



### EL TEMPLE

narrow stretch of territory, skirting the harbor and lying between the original Custom House and the Palace of the Governor General was the first inhabited district.

In the centre of this area stands to-day the historic structure, known as «El Temple», a monument that marks the site upon which the first mass was said in Havana.

This interesting structure is frequently pointed out to the tourists as the landing place of Columbus on his second voyage of discovery. But this is wholly at variance with historical facts, as there is evidence to warrant the belief that the Discoverer of the New World never saw the beautiful harbor of Havana. This spot is doubly hallowed by reason of the fact that the holy sacrifice was here offered by the saintly Dominican Las Casas.

The sovereign Pontiff Leo X erected Cuba into a diocese in the year 1516. The see was fixed at Baracoa, in which town, two years later, a Cathedral under the invocation of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin was erected. By virtue of a Bull of Pope Adrian VI dated April 28, 1522, the See was transferred to Santiago de Cuba. Bishop Salcedo in the year 1580 was the first Bishop to reside in Havana.

Florida and Louisiana, on being acquired by the Spanish Crown were placed under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Cuba. Until the year 1804 when Santiago was elevated to an Archdiocese, the two dioceses of Cuba were suffragans of the Archbishop of Santo Domingo.

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## The Cathedral

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The Palace of the Governor General occupies the site upon which the metropolitan church of Havana was originally located. The two structures here erected were successively destroyed in the years 1536 and 1777.

The present Cathedral, on the corner of Tacon and San Ignacio streets, was designated the Metropolitan Church of the Diocese of Havana in 1788, under the patronage of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin. Formely, it, as well as the Seminary adjoining, was the property of the Jesuits, whose labors were here begun in 1656, although the royal sanction for their foundation in Havana was not obtained until the year 1731. On the expulsion of the Society of Jesus by Carlos III of Spain, the Bishop of Havana assumed charge of their unfinished church of St. Ignatius, with a view of making it the future Cathedral.

This edifice plain in its exterior, is Semi-Gothic in its structure, possessing handsome marble altars and a most spacious choir. It was the object of special interest in the past, on account of its having treasured the remains of Columbus, which were said to have been carried by the Spaniards from Santo Domingo and deposited in a small urn in a niche on the gospel side of the sanctuary.

On the occasion of the fourth centenary of the discovery of the New World (1892) the erection of a large monument was begun in the centre aisle, intended to serve as the final resting place of the immortal Genoese. But this work remained incomplete at the expiration of the recent war. The urn reputed to contain the ashes of Columbus was transferred instead to Spain, previous to the occupation of the Island by U. S. troops.

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### St. Augustine's Chapel,

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The only English speaking Catholic Church in Havana, stands on the corner of Aguiar and Amargura streets, which is about the centre point of the old walled city. It is a time honored temple of worship, originally having served as a meeting place for the members of the Third Order of St. Augustine, a society of the laity affiliated to the Augustinians and first established in Havana in 1685.

In the political upheavals of this century, the Chapel has experienced strange vicissitudes. During the constitutional Regime, following Napoleon's ill fated efforts to establish his brother Joseph upon the throne of Spain, this portion of the Augustinian property was placed at the disposal of the *Sociedad Patriótica*, under whose auspices the first normal school in Cuba was here organized and conducted. Later, on the return of Ferdinand VII. to the throne, the Chapel

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**The Augustinian mission manual, a Prayer Book for the Laity, can be provided you at the Chapel Rectory. The Gilt edge in French seal binding a specialty.**

**PRICE: \$1-25**



was restored to the use of divine worship. But the indignities which this monarch thought to repair, were only forerunners of the harsher measures of persecution which the Church was doomed to suffer during the long Regency of his widow, Maria Christina. Convents, with few exceptions, were suppressed, Religious Orders exiled, and Church property freely confiscated.

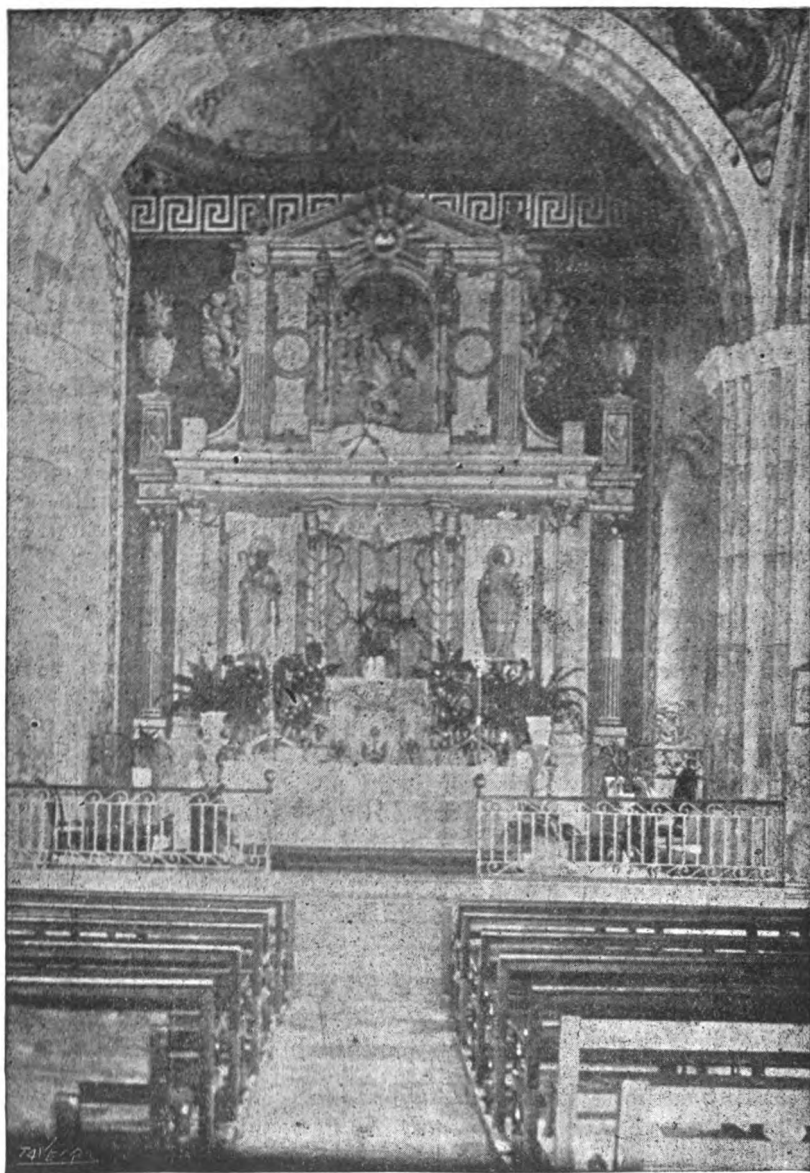
Without entering into the history of these repeated spoliations of the Church by political parties, who too often masked their perfidy under the guise of religion, the Augustinians, in common with several other Orders of the Church long since ceased their labors in Cuba.

On the expiration of Spanish sovereignty over this Island, the former Convent of St. Augustine was one of the government buildings over which the United States unfurled its flag. The Chapel alone remained the sole possession under episcopal control. Its one chapter of particular interest to our readers and which has called forth the publication of this *Memorial*, was on the 5<sup>th</sup> of last February briefly outlined in several Havana journals, as follows:

«We are pleased to announce that the Chapel of St. Augustine, on the corner of Aguiar and Amargura streets, has been assigned to the service of the English speaking Catholics of Havana. The Right Reverend Bishop of this city has entrusted this mission to a community of Augustinians from Villanova college, near Philadelphia, Pensylvania.

These priests, now residing in the house on Aguiar street adjoining the chapel, are duly authorized by our esteemed Bishop to administer to the spiritual needs of the English speaking Catholics, whether tourists or residents, whether soldiers or civilians.»

In consequence of this authorized announcement, the Chapel has been frequented weekly by a devout congregation, whose growing attendance, no less than their evident piety, bespeak success for the new undertaking. Very gratifying is it to note, that the Faithful who worship here know no restriction other than language. As the English speaking catholic church in a city long rent by discord, St. Augustine's Chapel has begun her new mission on truly catholic lines. Regardless of past dissensions, on each successive Sunday people of various nationalities assemble about her altar, to worship in the unity of faith and in the bond of charity.



**ST. AUGUSTIN'S CHAPEL**

## Pew Holders in St. Augustin's Chapel

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On Quinquagesima Sunday last, the date on which a congregation of English speaking Catholics first assembled in the Chapel, the seating accommodation was limited to eight benches. The Rector's announcement of his purpose to place pews in the body of the Chapel and to offer the same for rent, was somewhat in the nature of a departure from the custom hitherto obtaining in the Catholic churches of Havana.

During the past six months twenty five pews have been secured, seventeen of which are at present leased. The names of those who have generously supported us in this innovation deserve a place of notice in this memorial.

The following have rented an entire pew, J. R. Arellano and family, C. Mendoza and family; F. J. Dubos and wife; Miss D. Curtin; M. Batista and family; M. Mendoza and family; M. T. Kennedy and family; F. B. Genovar and family: the following, half Pews, Mrs E. J. Wasden; P. P. Entenza and wife; Mrs Arias-Salgado; Mrs L. Superville: The following single seats, Mrs F. P. Ferris; Miss M. Howell; Miss K. Mc Feeley, Miss A. Durban; Miss N. Martin; Miss J. Mc Donald; Messrs J. T. Kelly; J. Maurer; J. E. Gaule; J. F. Kennedy; C. Rowell; J. E. Connolly; R. Adelsperger; R. E. Troy; C. C. Fitzgerald; T. J. Boyle; J. S. Delaney; R. Stewart; E. M. Sanchez; J. J. Mc Gann; F. J. Murray and family one pew.

*Miss Hidalgo*

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## The Custom House

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(FORMERLY THE CONVENT AND CHURCH OF ST. FRANCIS).

This ancient building possesses much of interest alike to the historian and to the sightseer. The first Religious Community to be established in Havana was here founded in the year 1576. Thirty six years later at the General Chapter of Observant Franciscans held in Rome, Cuba was elected into a Province of the Order with the title of Santa Elena. Previous to the suppression of the Religious Orders in 1841, there were seven Convents and one Hospice of the

Franciscans scattered through out the various large cities of the Island. Their Convent and Church in Havana was appropriated by the Government, which at first converted it into a « Fruit Depot ». In 1856 a portion of the building was employed as the general archive of all the departments of government in Cuba.

Later, as the original Custom House was found too small for the growing importance of Havana as a trade centre, the old Church and Convent were made available for this important function of the government.

The edifice, as it appears to-day, was completed in 1738. It was occupied by the English on their capture of Havana in 1762. But the oft repeated assertion that the building was on this account considered permanently desecrated is without warrant, as the Franciscans dwelt in the Convent and conducted divine service in the adjoining church until the date of their suppression by the Spanish government.

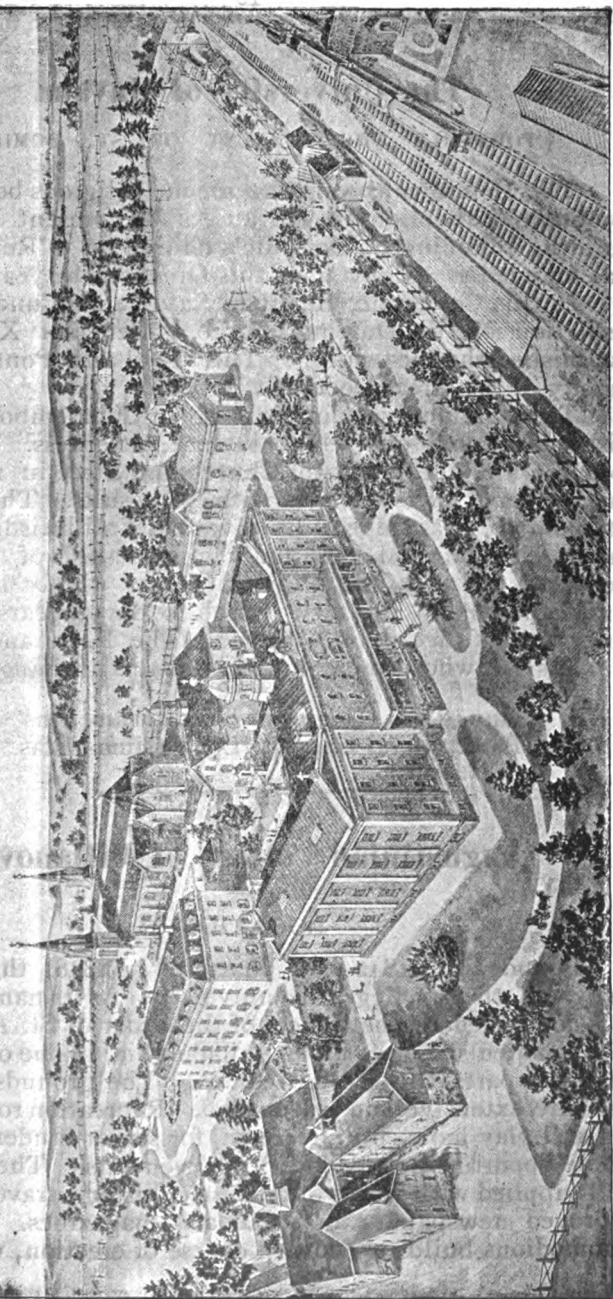
During the past six months the interior of the building has been extensively renovated under the supervision of the U. S. Officials. Yet the half century of profane use to which this venerable sanctuary has been subjected did not wholly obliterate all vestige of its former religious mission.

The symbolism of religion is inseparably associated with the dome (whose architectural beauty is without rival in Havana) even though human hands have long since removed the cross from its summit and a thunder bolt has shattered as its base the heroic figure of St. Francis. The gray faded walls of the exterior are here and there relieved by the life size statues of the Apostles and various saints of the Seraphic Order. Above the main entrance from the street appears in Bass Relief the Franciscan Coat of Arms.

One cannot but feel that the surroundings lend special significance to the stigma in the uplifted hands of the saint of Assisi. The very place cries out in judgment against the government which, while masquerading as a Catholic Power, had dared to invade this sacred domain. The strange blending of things religious and profane, as here witnessed, is often the ill-fated fruit which accrues to the Church from her too close alliance with the state. The impartial observer may be pardoned in his belief that the Havana Custom House is the practical interpreter of the significance of the miniature cross above the large crown which appears upon the Spanish escutcheon.

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AUGUSTINIAN COLLEGE OF VILLANOVA



## **The University of Havana**

( FORMERLY THE CONVENT OF ST. DOMINIC.)

The Dominicans were the second religious body of men to obtain foundation in Havana. The present University building adjoining St Dominic's church on O'Reilly Street was founded as a Convent of this Order in the year 1578.

In this Convent of St. John Lateran and under the jurisdiction of the Dominicans, Pope Benedict XIII (1729) established the institution: «The Royal and Pontifical University of the Great Doctor St Jerome.»

This foremost seat of learning in Cuba embodies in its history factional quarrels of intense bitterness. The effort to harmonize the claims of Church and State in relation to the University was attended with evil results. The Order of St Dominic was repeatedly divested of all jurisdiction over the institution and eventually dispossessed of the entire Convent. In 1843 the University was wholly secularized and then adopted the title which to day appears over the outer door of the main Entrance: «The Royal and Literary University», whose ancient motto remains unchanged within:

Unus Dies Hominum Eruditorum Plus  
Patet, quam Imperiti Longissima Ætas.

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## **Augustinian College of Villanova**

### **LOCATION**

Founded in 1842 and chartered in 1848, this College enjoys all the privileges of a university. As its name implies, it is conducted by the fathers of the Order of St. Augustine. It is situated six miles from Philadelphia, in one of the most beautiful parts the United States. The grounds for exercises are extensive and well shaded. Recreation rooms, reading and play halls, billiard room for senior students, afford ample opportunities for indoor amusements. The library is well supplied with works of reference, history, travels, charts, approved newspapers and standard magazines. New and commodious building, now in course of erection, will afford

many new opportunities to students at Villanova. There will be ample space to accommodate such as may desire private rooms for which a reasonable charge will be made.

### COURSES

The collegiate year is divided into two terms of five months each. The first begins in the second week of September and the second on the second day of February. The best time for admission is at the opening of a session, but applicants may be received at any other time who will be examined on entrance by the Prefect of Studies, and assigned by him to their proper classes. Candidates from any other institution must present testimonials of good moral character from the authorities of such place or from other reliable parties.

The regular College course for such as desire to take a degree, embraces a full course in Mental and Moral Philosophy, the classics, General Literature, History, Mathematics, the Natural Sciences and Modern Languages.

### EXPENSES

*(All charges are payable half-yearly in advance.)*

Tuition, board, bed and bedding, washing and mending linen, per session of five months. . . . .	\$125 00
Students in Chemistry for use of chemicals and appliances, per year . . . . .	5 00
Music—Piano lessons with use of instrument, per session. . . . .	40 00
Organs lessons, with use of instrument, per session. . . . .	40 00
Violin—Individual lessons, per session . . . . .	60 00
Class, of at least three members, lessons per session. . . . .	40 00
Stenography and Typewriting, the course . . . . .	15 00
Graduation Fee for Classical Course. . . . .	10 00
„ „ Scientific „ . . . . .	7 00
„ „ Commercial „ . . . . .	5 00

For further particulars apply at St. Augustine's Chapel, Havana; or address the V. Rev. President, Villanova College, Delaware Co., Pennsylvania, U. S. A.



**Most. Rev. Archbishop  
Francis Barnada, D. D.**

**His. Excellency  
P. L. Chapelle, D. D.**

**Right. Rev.  
J. H. Blent, D. D.**



## A Dual Consecration of Prelates.

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On Sunday July 2nd. of the current year, Most Reverend P. L. Chapelle, D. D., Archbishop of New Orleans and Delegate Apostolic Extraordinary for Cuba and Puerto Rico, consecrated in the Cathedral of the above named city, the Rev. J. H. Blenk, S. M., Bishop of the see of San Juan, (comprising the whole of the latter island) and Rev. F. Barnada, Archbishop of Santiago de Cuba. The occasion was one memorable in the annals of the Church and of special import to the recently ceded Spanish possessions in the West Indies.

The consecrating Prelate, Most Rev. Placide Louis Chapelle, D. D., was born August 28, 1842, at Meunde, Department Lozere, France. He was ordained priest June 29, 1865, at Baltimore, Md., by Archbishop Spaulding. On August 21, 1881, Father Chapelle, then Pastor of St Mathews Church, Washington, D. C., was appointed titular bishop of Arabissus and Coadjutor of Santa Fe, New Mexico. He was consecrated November 1, of the same year, in Baltimore by Cardinal Gibbons, assisted by Archbishop Salpointe and Bishop Kain. May 10, 1893 Bishop Chapelle was made titular Archbishop of Sebasté, and succeeded to the see of Santa Fe, January 7th of the following year, on the resignation of Archbishop Salpointe. By Papal Brief dated December 1st, 1897, Archbishop Chapelle was transferred to the Archdiocese of New Orleans, made vacant by the death of Most Rev. Francis Janssens.

At the meeting of the Archbishops of the United States, held in Washington, D. C., October 12, 1898, the first announcement was made of Archbishop Chapelle's appointment, as Delegate Apostolic to Cuba and Puerto Rico. His Excellency left New Orleans on January 6, 1899 on his first Apostolic visit of Cuba and Puerto Rico. After visiting the Sees of San Juan and Santiago de Cuba he arrived March 2 at Havana, where he remained until the latter part of the same month.

Accompanying the Delegate Apostolic as auditor on this visitation was the present Rt. Rev. James Hubert Blenk, S. M., D. D., Bishop of San Juan, Puerto Rico. He, the first American Prelate of this ancient See, was born in the

City of New Orleans, August 6, 1857, After receiving a primary education in the schools of his native city, the future Bishop Blenk entered Jefferson College, La. Thence he passed to France and was received into the Society of Marist Fathers at Lyons. His ecclesiastical studies were completed at the Marist House, Dublin, Ireland; where he was ordained priest October 16, 1885, by Archbishop Redwood of New Zealand. Immediately after ordination Father Blenk returned to the United States, and was assigned to the Chair of Professor at Jefferson College. In the year 1891 he was chosen President of this institution, which position of trust he held until his transfer as pastor of the Church of the Holy Name of Mary, in New Orleans.

At the Consistory held in Rome, June 19, of this year His Holiness preconized the Rev. James Hubert Blenk, S. M., Bishop of Puerto Rico.

Most Rev. F. Barnada, D. D., Archbishop of Santiago is a native of the island of Cuba. Previous to his elevation to the Metropolitan See of Cuba and Puerto Rico, Father Barnada held the office of Canon of the Cathedral of the Assumption of the B. V. M. at Santiago de Cuba. But the greater portion of his priestly labors had been spent in the Diocese of Havana, from which he had passed to the Archdiocese of Cuba some twelve years ago.

May the labors of these two esteemed. Prelates be fraught with untold blessings to the Faithful of their respective charges.

Credit for the dates in the foregoing article relative to His Excellency, Archbishop Chapelle, and Bishop Blenk are chiefly due to "Reuss' Cyclo-pedia of Prelates in the U. S." from which extracts from advanced sheets were kindly furnished us.

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To all our Patrons whose business or investments require the aid of an Attorney, we unhesitatingly commend.

## LCDO. JOSE RAMIREZ DE ARELLANO

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Counsellor at law.—Notary Public of Havana.—Commissioner of the State of New York.—Translations made from Spanish into English and English into Spanish.—Office 16, Empedrado Street.—Telephone 953.

## Notable events in the history of Havana

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- 1515 Havana founded on the south coast.
- 1519 Havana changed to the present site.
- 1538 Burning of Havana by «Filibusters».
- 1577 The Bull «Santa Cruzada» first published.
- 1592 Havana declared a city.
- 1791 The Palace of the Governor General completed,  
as it appears to-day.
- 1796 The ashes of Columbus brought from Santo Domingo.
- 1804 First Cemetery opened.
- 1820 The Lighthouse erected on Morro Castle.
- 1828 The chapel «El Templete», where mass was first  
offered, erected.

### FOUNDATION OF ANCIENT CHURCHES AND CONVENTS

- 1550 The Major Parish Church begun, after the destruction of former by Pirates (1538).
- 1576 Founded the Convent of St. Francis.
- 1578 Founded the Convent of St. Dominic.
- 1608 St. Augustine's Convent begun; finished in 1640.
- 1635 The Convent of «Santa Clara» founded.
- 1638 A «Hermitage» established where now is situated  
the parish church, «Espiritu Santo» (1664).
- 1640 A «Hermitage» erected, where to-day stands the  
Church «Cristo».
- 1649 The Franciscan Sisters first community of women  
established in Havana.
- 1685 The «Hermitage» of St. Ignatius, founded on the  
site of the present Cathedral.
- 1690 A Chapel erected where now is situated the  
parish church «Angel».

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1693 The Church of «San Felipe» built, of which the Capuchin Fathers took possession in 1784. To-day the Discalced Carmelites occupy it.

1698 Completion of the Convent of «Santa Catalina», which was begun in 1680. Dominican Sisters established in Havana in 1685.

1698 The parish «Jesus del Monte» established.

1702 The Carmelite Nuns come to Havana.

1705 Established the Convent «Santa Teresa».

1804 The Ursuline Nuns from New Orleans, obtain foundation in Havana.

1847 The sisters of Charity arrived in Havana. At present they number 208, possessing 10 houses and 6 schools in the city, and 16 houses in the diocese.

1858 The madames of the Sacred Heart open their first house in Havana.

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PARA CABALLEROS

MANZANA DE GOMEZ

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AMERICAN HABERDASHERS

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MEN'S NOTIONS

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## MADAMES OF THE SACRED HEART

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The Madames of the Sacred Heart are the foremost body of Religious engaged in the work of educating young ladies. For forty years these self-sacrificing women have labored incessantly for the betterment of religion and education in Havana.

In the year 1858, March 19th., the Reverend Mother Hardey opened in Havana the first house of the Religious of the Sacred Heart. Nineteen years later they moved from this locality at Cerro (now occupied by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd), to their present spacious and beautiful Convent in the suburbs of Havana. The Boarding School for young ladies here established maintains an excellent standard of education and it is patronized by the best families in Cuba. This College offers to young ladies the same educational advantages as is had in the prominent institutions of the Sacred Heart in the United States. The Academy and Convent of the Sacred Heart are under the direction of Mother Tommasini, who has been identified with the work of her community in Havana from its inception. Her name is sufficient guarantee of the excellence of results achieved in this College. To her energy and zeal is largely due the advancement of the work of education in the face of almost insurmountable difficulties, consequent to the disturbed condition of Cuba during the past decade of years. The endearment in which Mother Tommasini is held by the people of Cuba bespeaks their keen sense of appreciation for one who has cheerfully consecrated her life's service in Religion to the good of the present generation.

Besides the aforementioned Academy for boarders, the Madames conduct an excellent day-school in the City of Havana, at No. 4 Tejadillo Street. In each of these institutions are stationed several members of the Community whose native tongue is English.

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### Our soldier boys

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The care of Catholic Soldiers in the Department of Havana, has been the object of our special solicitude. The



**Mother of Good Counsel**

**A Miraculous Picture of the Blessed Virgin Venerated in the Augustinian Church  
at Genazzano, Italy.**

combined efforts of Father O'Sullivan S. J. and of the Rector of the Chapel have been exerted in the church, the hospital, and the camp, for the spiritual welfare of the Catholic Soldiers. The good work we have accomplished in their regard has been greatly facilitated by the courtesy which has been uniformly extended us by the military authorities. These gentlemen, regardless of their rank, or religious belief, have invariably shown a respect and consideration for the priests laboring among their soldiers. Gladly do we avail ourselves of this opportunity to express our thanks to the military representatives of the United States in Cuba.

The following notice was distributed among the soldiers shortly after the occupation of the Island by the American troops:

ORDER OF DIVINE SERVICE FOR CATHOLIC SOLDIERS.

Mass and Instruction in English every Sunday in the following places: at the Jesuit Church of Belen, Compostela Street, 10 A. M.; at the Augustinian Chapel of St. Augustine, corner of Aguiar and Amargura Streets, 9 A. M.

The Military Authorities have declared themselves willing to facilitate the means for the Soldiers to comply with their religious duties; and all are earnestly exhorted to profit of this opportunity.

Rev. D. O'Sullivan S. J. may be seen at Belen and Rev. W. A. Jones, O. S. A. at St. Augustin's Chapel.

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## The soldiers' memorial

The Chapel since serving as the English speaking place of Catholic worship has been much improved in its interior. For the means to accomplish the many needed alterations we are specially indebted to the aid received from friends of our work in the United States. The impetus given us from this source has been further advanced by the soldiers and civilians who form our congregation.

The new statue of St. Joseph, which adorns a niche on the Gospel side of the Chapel, is the special offering of the Catholic soldiers. Be Cuba's future what it may, this memorial is bestowed by the soldiers with the distinct purpose,

that it shall be retained by the Augustinians in their English speaking Catholic church in Havana.

In accepting this grateful acknowledgement of services cheerfully rendered, we earnestly pray that the Foster Father of Jesus may abundantly repay the devotion of these soldier boys, especially by procuring for them the grace of a happy death.

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### Our Lady of Good Counsel.

The feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel (April 26th), was this year commemorated in the Chapel by exposing upon one of its side altars a beautiful picture of the Madonna under this endearing title. The same was a gift of a devout client of our Blessed Lady.

Good Counsel is a grace of which Cuba stands to-day in especial need. May her people learn to seek it by a genuine devotion to her who is the chosen daughter of the Eternal Father, the Spouse of the Holy Ghost, and Mother of the Incarnate Son.

The passing of the old century is contemporary with the passing away of an ancient political regime. The people stand upon the threshold of the new era with all thoughts of reverence for the past swallowed up in their consuming desire for the acquisition of something new, to lift them abreast with the tide, whose course remains so undefined. The present are moments fraught with peril to religion among a people, who are traditionally Catholic. In their national aspiration for freedom there is a lamentable disposition to curtail the rights of the Church which had been, according to popular judgment, too closely identified in the past with an obnoxious form of Government. Yet this prejudice, born of oppression, is in no sense tantamount to a wish of the Cuban people to eschew the faith of their forefathers, or to embrace an alien form of religion.

The new century unfolds a grand mission to the Catholic Church in this Island. It is she alone who possesses the power to awaken the people to a just sense of their duty to God and to their Country. Hers is the mission to impress upon the rising generation, that a devout adherence to the principles of religion, is the Nation's only bulwark against



decay and the sole basis of true greatness; that their just aspirations for freedom and for deliverance from civil thralldom ought not to weaken their allegiance to the one true Church: which, alien to no legitimate form of civil government, is empowered by divine right to reclaim against injustice done in the name of liberty, and to withhold her sanction of tyranny, though exercised in the name of law and authority.

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### St. Augustine's Convent

The Augustinians were the third body of Religious men who obtained foundation in Havana. Augustine de Prado and Francis Sanchez were the two first to arrive in this city. They came from Mexico, and the Church and Convent of St. Augustine, which they founded (1608), pertained, we believe, to the Province of Mexico. Early in this century the property of the Augustinians was appropriated by the Spanish Government. On January 13 1818 a free school of painting and designing, known as St. Alexander, was begun in the former Convent. This school was opened under the auspices of a French Artist, John Baptist Vernay, whose paintings are still treasured as masterpieces in the Cathedral and in other churches in this city. According to the «Guia de Forasteros» of 1841 this school contained 100 pupils. At present this ancient convent serves as a public library and medical hall and museum, and also as a school of mechanics.

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The Church of St. Augustine was long since ceded by the Government to the Congregation of St. Francis, a body of laity, who reclaimed in court against the despoliation of their Chapel, forming a part of the old Franciscan Convent,



**St. Augustine's Church**

now the Custom House. On the restoration of the religious orders by Francis VII the Augustinians, it would seem, regained only that portion of their former possessions, which comprised the Chapel and House, now used for the English speaking Catholics of Havana. In the general suppression of 1843, the Augustinians were despoiled also of this property. Their Superior, however, Rev. Joseph Claro Pinelo, a native Cuban, continued until his death to exercise the office of minister of the Third Order of St. Augustine.

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## Classes in English

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Beginning with April we have been able to conduct classes in the English language, three days of each week. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 1 to 2 P. M., and from 7 to 8 P. M., some forty boys and young men have availed themselves of this opportunity for instruction, which is given entirely free of charge. Apart from the practical help we have thus afforded a deserving body of pupils, the hours thus spent, have been most profitable from a religious standpoint.

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## Holy week at the chapel

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The people of Havana are especially conspicuous for their devotion during Holy Week. Many were attracted to the Chapel, some no doubt drawn thither by a curiosity to witness the interior of the English speaking Catholic Church. The arrangement of the Repository on Holy Tuesday, under the direction of Rev. Brother George, O. S. A., evoked warm praise.

The prominent feature of our holy-week services was a retreat conducted by Rev. A. P. Doyle, C. S. P., of New York City. The sermons on Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday were delivered by this well-known missionary and apostle of temperance. To many of our congregation, particularly to the soldiers, Father Doyle was no stranger. The force of his eloquence was accentuated by reason of the home memories with his presence in the pulpit evoked.

The good results attending these spiritual exercises were evidenced by the large number who approached Holy Communion on Easter Sunday.

We are also indebted to the same good Priest for having provided us with 500 copies of "The Mass Book", an excellent prayer book, recently published by the Paulist Fathers which has served as a perpetual missionary among the soldiers.

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## Altar Society

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An Altar Society, under the Presidency of Mrs. J. R. Arellano, was the first Association organized among the members of our congregation. The object of the Society is twofold, namely; to encourage a genuine devotion to the Blessed Eucharist, and to provide for the proper adornment of the Sanctuary.

The kindly response of the people of Havana, their sympathy in our efforts to make the Chapel self-sustaining, has been clearly evinced in this Society, as well as in all our undertakings. Early in the work of organizing an English-speaking Congregation in Havana, it was found necessary to impress upon those attending the Chapel, that the maintenance of our undertaking was wholly dependent upon their support. The people of this City have shown a genuine sympathy in their response to this appeal. Although the Chapel is located where churches are most numerous, at least one half of our congregation is composed of native Havana Catholics, familiar with the English language. And be it said to their praise, they do not yield to any other portion of our patrons in their generous support of the Chapel. We have abiding faith in the willingness of the people to sustain religion and her ministers. Nor do we doubt that the people of Cuba will prove faithless to this responsibility with which they are confronted. The annual subsidy of \$379,757., which the Government formerly granted to maintain religion in this Island, shall be abundantly repaid by the generosity of a truly kindhearted people.

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*DR. JAMES WARNER,*

DENTIST.

69 O'Reilly, corner Villegas.

Entrance on Villegas.

## Fortifications about Havana

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1539. The Castle de la Fuerza was begun, and finished  
in 1544.  
1589. The first Castle of Morro completed.  
1596. «La Punta» completed.  
1646. The wall around the old city begun, and finished  
in 1740.  
1764. Cabana begun, also Atares and the rebuilding  
of Morro. Morro and Atares completed in 1770, and Cabana  
in 1794.  
1771. Foundation of Castle of Principe laid, and finished  
in 1794.  
1799. Battery of Santa Clara constructed.
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## St. Augustin's Feast

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(*"Havana Herald"* Sept. 5, 1899)

On Sunday morning the congregation of English-speaking catholics of this city fittingly celebrated the feast of their chapel, on the corner of Aguiar and Amargura streets.

The Rt. Rev. Bishop of Havana was present in the sanctuary during the high mass, which was sung by a select choir under the able direction of Mr. Batista. A eulogy on St. Augustine was preached by the Rev. W. A. Jones, O. S. A. rector of the chapel.

The chapel was specially decorated for the occasion. A new statue of St. Joseph, the gift of the catholic soldiers of the department of Havana, to the rector, adorned a niche on the gospel side. The sanctuary railing, the large pillars and the doors have been recently painted, giving the chapel a new and attractive appearance.

The rich display of natural flowers on the altar Sunday morning was a special feature of the celebration, reflecting much credit upon Br. George, O. S. A., whose taste and skill were apparent in the exquisite design.

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## **Congregational Singing**

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On Sunday, May 14th., Congregational Singing was inaugurated in the Chapel. Since then the services have, on each successive Sunday been enlivened by the singing of devotional hymns. Mr. Melchor Batista, the Choir Director, has been ably assisted by our Organist, Mr. John A. Blatta. From the inception of the work, a choir rehearsal is held every Friday evening at 8 o'clock. This weekly recital will continue indefinitely, to which the music-lovers of the Congregation are cordially invited. While our thanks are extended to all who generously contributed their time and their talents to advance this good work, a special debt of gratitude is due to the aforesaid gentlemen and to Mrs. P. P. Entenza, Miss A. Durban, and Miss. M. Howell.

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## **Subscribe for OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL,**

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A Catholic Family Magazine, published by the Augustinian Fathers in the United States. Leave one dollar with your name and address at the Chapel, and you will receive this periodical every month for one year. Or, send address and subscription to Rev. J. F. Mc Gowen, O. S. A., Villanova College, Delaware Co., Pennsylvania. U. S. A.

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## **Hours of service at the Chapel**

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Mass is celebrated every Sunday and Holy Day at nine o'clock. If the attendance warrant an additional mass will be introduced later in the season. Sunday School will be resumed the first Sunday of October. The hour appointed is 4. P. M.

Confessions are heard on Saturday afternoons and evenings, also before mass, or at any time convenient to the penitent.



**NOTICE.**—Entrance to St. Augustine's Chapel is reached both from Amargura and Aguiar Streets. But outside the hours of service it is found necessary to keep the doors closed. Those desiring to visit the Blessed Sacrament during the day will be admitted through the door of the Rectory on Aguiar Street, adjoining the Chapel.

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## **Belen College for young men.**

Prominent among the educational institutions of Havana is the College of Belen, situated on Compostela Street. The erection of the main building was begun in the year 1704, and till the year 1839 it was occupied by the Community of Bethlehemites, a body of religious men, adhering to the Rule of St. Augustine.

On being confiscated by the Crown of Spain, this property served as the residence of the Vice-Governor of Cuba, and a barrack for one battalion of Infantry. Thus Belen continued until the year 1854, when, by the order of Isabel II, the entire property was ceded to the Society of Jesus, for the establishment of *The Royal College of Havana*. Since its foundation, about 6000 young men have been here educated by the Jesuits.

The buildings are massive in structure and modern in their conveniences.

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to this College is well and favorably known in the scientific world.

The Collegiate Church of Belen is one of the most popular centres of devotion in Havana. The crowded services here witnessed attest the general esteem in which the Jesuits are held by the people of this city. The church though small is regarded as a model of the Graeco-Roman style of architecture. As early as 1695 Bishop Compostela founded here a hermitage, of which the present beautiful church is the outgrowth.

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## **The Cemeteries of Havana.**

The districts of Cerro and Jesús del Monte, had two burial places, the former established in 1700, the latter in 1693. But the oldest cemetery for the people of Havana was opened and blessed by Bishop Espada on the 2nd. of February 1806. It was situated on San Lázaro Street near the Hospital of the same name. Previous to the establishment of this burial place outside of the walls of the City, the dead of Havana were interred in the churches. The custom obtained of constructing ten «Tronos» or separate rows of crypts beneath the stone floor. The first tier was placed directly beneath the steps of the main altar. Children were interred under the altar. Special apartments were also constructed beneath the entrance to the church and behind the choir. So strongly were the people attached to this custom, that the bones of those who died in the distant towns during the year were brought to the Cathedral on Pasison Sunday for the purpose of receiving ecclesiastical burial.

The enlightened and saintly Bishop Espada vigorously combated this practice, which he characterized as an abuse. During a pastoral visit of the Diocese he succeeded in generally establishing burial grounds outside the churches.

### **Colon Cemetery**

The first bodies to be interred in this beautiful cemetery were victims of the cholera which infested Havana 1868. Six years previously the construction of this burial place was entrusted by Royal Decree to the Diocese of Havana. About one million dollars have been expended by the various

Bishops of Havana upon this undertaking. Colon, in consequence, is regarded one of the most beautiful burial grounds in the world. And there are also monuments here erected in keeping with the beauty of the surroundings. The question of the ownership of the Cemeteries of Cuba has occupied much public attention during the past few months. Shortly after the occupation of the Island by U. S. troops, some seventeen different burial grounds were forcibly taken possession of by the respective municipalities, without regard to the protests of the church authorities which had previously exercised the right of ownership.

On the 12th of February 1899, Governor General J. R. Brooke issued a Decree, in virtue of which, cemeteries were classed as follows viz: those erected and maintained by the Church, 2ndly, those erected and supported by funds from the State; and lastly those erected and sustained partly by Church and partly by the State. Those under the first head were declared the goods of the Church, while those under the latter were declared the property of the State.

The ownership of the many cemeteries, however, which were classified in the second list, were ordered to remain undisturbed, pending a judicial inquiry into the titles. A period of three months was granted during which the interested parties should present to the Military Governor their rival claims to the Cemeteries. On June 6<sup>th</sup> The Ayuntamiento of Havana, petitioned the Civil Governor of the Province, that the administration of Colon Cemetery be awarded to the Municipality. The Right Rev. Bishop Santander, however, in his reply to the foregoing, (July 29<sup>th</sup> 1899) clearly vindicates the indisputable right of the Church to this burial lot. This lucid exposition, as published in the July number of the «Boletín Eclesiástico» of Havana, offers the most convincing evidence of the justice of the Bishop's claim as sole owner of Colon Cemetery.

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## Services at Military Hospital No. 1

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Through the courtesy of Major Carter, a priest from St. Augustine's Chapel is permitted to conduct services every Sunday evening in the Chapel erected within the hospital enclosure. The Sisters of Charity (ten of whom are

here employed by the United States Government in hospital duty) assisted by several ladies and gentlemen of the hospital corps, furnish a program of music for Vespers. Immediately after the services confessions are heard.

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### **An academy for young ladies**

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Misses M. Mc Cord and M. Howell contemplate the opening of an advanced school for young ladies at the Veda-do. The estimable ladies, who had successfully organized and conducted for eleven years a similar institution at Panama, Columbia, expect to mature their plans during the present autumn.

The discipline and method of teaching to be adopted in this new school, will accord with the most approved practices obtaining in the United States.

The course of studies will include History, Literature, Music, Mathematics, Spanish and English Languages.

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